

Remarks

Currently pending are claims 1-12 and 16-20. The process claimed in claim 1 has been amended to recite active steps. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found at, for example, page 17 of the present application. Claims 7-9 have been amended by incorporating the limitations of claims 13-15. Claims 18 and 20 have amended to depend on claim 7. No new matter has been added. In view of the above amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration by the Examiner, and advancement of the application to allowance.

35 U.S.C. §§ 101 and 112

The Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for not setting forth any steps in the process. Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite the step of applying a dyeing preparation in the form of an aqueous dye bath or printing paste to the textile fibre material.

The Examiner also rejected claims 7, 8, 9, 14, 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants have amended claims 7, 8 and 9 to define the thickness of the layers B(b) and B(c) and have deleted the limitations relating to n, k and i. Accordingly, Applicants request the rejections under 35 U.S.C §§ 101 and 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 6-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bujard et al. (US 5,766,335) in view of Pelzig (US 4,956,404). Applicants traverse the rejection for the following reasons.

As presently claimed, claim 1 recites a process for dyeing or printing textile fibre materials comprising applying a dyeing preparation in the form of an aqueous dye bath or printing paste to the textile fibre material wherein the dyeing preparation comprises a gloss pigment A or B.

Bujard et al. teaches gloss pigments according to component A of the present invention and the use of such gloss pigments in plastic materials and paints. Bujard et al. does not teach or suggest the use of gloss pigments in textile applications.

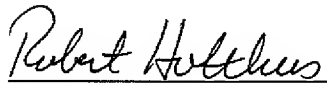
Adding the teachings of Pelzig does not bring one skilled in the art closer to Applicants presently claimed invention. Pelzig teaches a specific plastic composition that is based primarily on an emulsion of polyvinyl acetate homopolymer. Pelzig further teaches the use of the above plastic composition in preparing molded objects, such as figurines, animals, insects, and flowers.

In the Office Communication, the Examiner refers to column 2, lines 36-37 and column 5, lines 13-25 in Pelzig in support of the rejection. However, the teachings at column 2, lines 36-37 relate to the coloring of the plastic composition with watercolor, acrylic paint or oil paint, and not gloss pigments. Gloss pigments are referred to in column 5, lines 13-25 in Pelzig, but only as an optional coating that can be brushed onto the surface of a molded object to provide a metallic effect. Thus, the teachings of Pelzig have nothing to do with the dyeing or printing of textile fibre materials by applying a dyeing preparation comprising a gloss pigment in the form of an aqueous dye bath or printing paste to textile fibre material as presently claimed. Accordingly, the combination of Bujard et al. with Pelzig does not render the present set of claims obvious and Applicants respectfully request the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Huntsman Corporation
10003 Woodloch Forest Drive
The Woodlands, Texas 77380
(281) 719-4553



Robert Holthus
Reg. No. 50,347
Attorney for Applicants
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